

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve; and

FE a second tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve, which is inserted in said first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member;

a receiving member in the bottom of said first tubular member; and

a catching member on the outer surface of the upper end of said second tubular member, said catching member being adapted to catch said receiving member when said second tubular member projects to its fullest extent; wherein:

one or more press receiving surface portions are formed on the inner cylindrical surface of the first tubular member, said press receiving surface portions having a cross section which has an arc-shaped surface such that the center axis of the arc extends in parallel with the center axis of said first tubular member;

one or more press applying surface portions are formed on the outer cylindrical surface of the second tubular member, said press applying surface portions having a cross section which has an arc-shaped surface such that the

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rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the press applying surface portions and the press receiving surface portions from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction is limited so as to prevent the given locations of the press applying surface portions to be pressed against the press receiving surface portions.

a plural number of press receiving surface portions are formed on the inner surface of the first tubular member so that the press receiving surface portions are arranged in the circumferential direction with a distance between each press receiving surface portion and its adjacent press receiving surface portion; and

a plural number of press applying surface portions are formed on the outer surface of the second tubular member so that the press applying surface portions

are arranged in the circumferential direction at locations respectively corresponding to said press receiving surface portions, with a distance between each press applying surface portion and its adjacent press applying surface portion.

3. (Original) A telescopic unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

13) a receiving step portion is formed between each press receiving surface portion and its adjacent press receiving surface portion of the first tubular member; and

a catching step portion that is adapted to catch the corresponding receiving step portion when the second tubular member is rotated circumferentially in the aforementioned other direction relative to the first tubular member is formed between each press applying surface portion and its adjacent press applying surface portion of the second tubular member.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve; and

a second tubular member which is inserted in the first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the

first tubular member and has a cross section that is in the shape of an involute curve and corresponds to the cross section of the first tubular member;

a receiving member in the bottom of said first tubular member; and

a catching member on the outer surface of the upper end of said second tubular member, said catching member being adapted to catch said receiving member when said second tubular member projects to its fullest extent; wherein:

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes the outer surface of said second tubular member to be pressed against the inner surface of the first tubular member, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the outer surface of the second tubular member and the inner surface of the first tubular member from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted.

6. (Currently amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section has a shape comprised of a combination of identical parts of an involute curve; and

a second tubular member which is inserted in the first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the

first tubular member and has a cross section whose shape corresponds to that of the first tubular member and is comprised of a combination of identical parts of an involute curve;

a receiving member in the bottom of said first tubular member; and

a catching member on the outer surface of the upper end of said second tubular member, said catching member being adapted to catch said receiving member when said second tubular member projects to its fullest extent; wherein:

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes the outer surface of said second tubular member to be pressed against the inner surface of the first tubular member, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the outer surface of the second tubular member and the inner surface of the first tubular member from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A telescopic unit, according to claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

~~the first tubular member is provided with a said receiving member which is snugly fitted in the bottom of the first tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the first tubular base member; and~~

~~the second tubular member is provided with a said catching member which is snugly fitted around the outer surface of the upper end of the second tubular member, and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the second tubular member, and is adapted to catch said receiving member when the second tubular member projects to its fullest extent.~~

9. (Currently amended) A telescopic unit, according to claim 2, further comprising wherein:

~~the first tubular member is provided with a said receiving member which is snugly fitted in the bottom of the first tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the first tubular base member; and~~

~~the second tubular member is provided with a said catching member which is snugly fitted around the outer surface of the upper end of the second tubular member, and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the second tubular member, and is adapted to catch said receiving member when the second tubular member projects to its fullest extent.~~

10. (Currently amended) A telescopic unit, according to claim 3, further comprising wherein:

~~the first tubular member is provided with a said receiving member which is snugly fitted in the bottom of the first tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the first tubular base member; and~~

~~the second tubular member is provided with a said catching member which is snugly fitted around the outer surface of the upper end of the second tubular member, and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the second tubular member, and is adapted to catch said receiving member when the second tubular member projects to its fullest extent.~~

11. (Previously presented) A telescopic unit, according to claim 1, further comprising:

a tripod;

said tripod including a base;

said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and

said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

12. (Previously presented) A telescopic unit, according to claim 2, further comprising:

a tripod;

said tripod including a base;

said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and

said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

a tripod;

said tripod including a base;

said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and

said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

a tripod;

said tripod including a base;

said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and

said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

a tripod;

said tripod including a base;


said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and

said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

16. (Previously presented) A telescopic unit, according to claim 8, further comprising:

- a tripod;
- said tripod including a base;
- said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and
- said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

17. (Previously presented) A telescopic unit, according to claim 9, further comprising:

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- a tripod;
 - said tripod including a base;
 - said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and
 - said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

18. (Previously presented) A telescopic unit, according to claim 10, further comprising:

- a tripod;
 - said tripod including a base;
 - said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and
 - said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.
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19. (New) A telescopic unit, according to claim 5, wherein:

said receiving member is snugly fitted in the bottom of the first tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the first tubular base member; and

said catching member is snugly fitted around the outer surface of the upper end of the second tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the second tubular member.

20. (New) A telescopic unit, according to claim 6, wherein:

said receiving member is snugly fitted in the bottom of the first tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the first tubular base member; and

said catching member is snugly fitted around the outer surface of the upper end of the second tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the second tubular member.